



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SILSBEE MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON THROUGH PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**

(Beaumont, TX) A 34-year-old Silsbee man has been sentenced to 70 months in federal prison for being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

**MERICO "RICO" DEMONZ STOTTS** was sentenced today by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield.

According to evidence presented in court, during the course of an assault investigation in June 2004, Cleveland Police learned that Stotts, a convicted felon, was known to possess firearms. Stotts has two prior felony convictions for Delivery of a Controlled Substance. An investigation involving federal agents resulted in the recovery of four firearms.

Stotts pleaded guilty to the firearms charge on May 16, 2005.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive, strategic approach to gun law enforcement that targets gun crime and violent offenders in an effort to make our communities safer. Over the past four years, law enforcement across America increased federal gun crime prosecutions by 76%. Here in the Eastern District of Texas, gun crime prosecutions are up an impressive 93%.

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This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Cleveland Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randall L. Fluke.

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